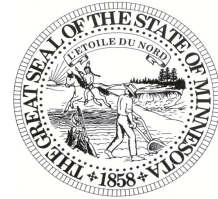




STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



ISSUED: JULY 7, 2010

**NOTICE OF APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE AND
PUBLIC INFORMATION &
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT SCOPING MEETING**

In the Matter of the Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC, Applications for a 101 MW Large Wind Energy Conversion System Site Permit and a Certificate of Need for the Prairie Rose Wind Farm and Transmission Line in Rock and Pipestone Counties.

PUC Docket Numbers: IP-6843/WS-10-425 and CN-10-80

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Office of Energy Security Energy Facilities Permitting (EFP) staff will hold a Public Information and Environmental Report (ER) Scoping meeting on the applications submitted by Prairie Rose Wind, LLC (Applicant), a wholly owned subsidiary of Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC, to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for a Site Permit and Certificate of Need (CN) to build and operate the Prairie Rose Wind Farm and associated transmission facilities (Project).

**Tuesday, July 27, 2010
7:00 p.m.**

**Memorial Hall
101 East Wall Street
Jasper, MN 56144**

The purpose of the public meeting is to provide information about the proposed Project and to take public comment and input on the Prairie Rose Wind Farm Site Permit Application, issues to be considered in developing the Draft Site Permit, and on the scope of the Environmental Report. EFP staff will provide an overview of the state's wind energy permitting process. The public is invited to review the Project applications, learn more about the Commission review process, make comments, and ask questions, including suggestions about alternatives to the Project and impacts to address in the ER. Representatives from Geronimo Wind will be available to answer questions about the Project. **Prior to the public information meeting, the Applicant will host an open house beginning at 6:30 p.m. (a half hour prior to the public meeting) at the meeting location.**

Project Location

The proposed site is located west of Hardwick and south and east of Jasper in Rock and Pipestone counties. The project is proposed to be constructed in Denver, Rose Dell and Spring Water townships in Rock County and Elmer and Eden townships in Pipestone County (see attached map). The Project Boundary encompasses approximately 35,335 acres, of which approximately 14,000 acres are under site control.

Project Description

A permit is being requested for an up to 101 MW LWECS, including the following:

1. A wind turbine layout consisting of up to 67 turbines, depending on turbine specifications; the application describes the possible use of General Electric 1.5 MW, Vestas 1.8 MW or Siemens 2.3 MW wind turbines;
2. Associated facilities, including gravel access roads, an electrical collection system, permanent meteorological towers, one step-up substation, a Sonic (SODAR) or Light (LIDAR) Detection and Ranging unit and an O&M building.

The project has an associated 24-mile 115 kV transmission system that would connect to the Split Rock Substation near Brandon, South Dakota (see IP-6839/TL-10-134).

The Applicant's goal is to complete the construction of the project and achieve commercial operation between the third calendar quarter of 2011 and the first calendar quarter of 2012.

Eminent Domain for Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC

The Applicant does not have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the Project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the Applicant.

Commission Review Process

Two separate Commission approvals are required to build an LWECS larger than 50 MW. A project developer must obtain a CN under Minnesota Statutes section 216B.243 and a Site Permit under Minnesota Statutes Chapter 216F.

The Applicant filed its CN Application on May 13, 2010, and its Site Permit Application on the same day. The Commission accepted the Site Permit Application as complete in its June 22, 2010, Order. The completeness of the CN Application was being heard before the Commission on July 8, 2010. The applications are available on the Commission's website and from the Applicant's representative listed below. Landowners inside the LWECS boundary and local governmental units will receive a copy of the Site Permit application directly from the Applicant.

EFP staff is responsible for conducting a public meeting and environmental review for the CN application under Minnesota Rule 7849.1400. After the public meeting, EFP staff will prepare an ER, which will consider issues related to the CN, such as size, type, timing, and general environmental impacts of the Project. After completion of the ER, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the CN application, presided over by an Administrative Law Judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings. Under Minnesota law, the CN proceeding is the only time at which the "no-build" alternative and the size, type, and timing of a new electrical generating facility can be considered.

The Applicant intends to apply to the State of Minnesota for a route permit for the 115 kV line pursuant to Minnesota Statutes section 216E, but has not done so as of this date.

EFP staff is also soliciting comments on issues that should be included in the Draft Site Permit for the Project. Such issues include unique characteristics of the proposed site or project that should be considered and items that may be missing or mischaracterized in the Site Permit Application. Based on comments received, EFP staff will prepare and submit a Draft Site Permit to the Commission for consideration. If the Commission issues a Draft Site Permit for public review and comment, then a public meeting will be held in the project area and members of the public will have an opportunity to ask questions and present comments. Persons on the EFP Mailing List for this project (see below) will receive notice of all public and Commission meetings.

Public Comment Period

EFP staff will accept written comments on issues that should be considered in developing the Draft Site Permit and suggested alternatives to be evaluated in the ER until **August 17, 2010**. Comments can be mailed, emailed, or faxed to David Birkholz (see contact information below).

Project Contacts and Information

The Site Permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed project are available on the Commission's website: <http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=28286>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 10-425 for the Site Permit documents or 10-80 for the CN documents).

Copies of the applications will also be available for review at the: Auditor's Offices in Rock and Pipestone; City Offices in Hardwick, Jasper, and Trosky; Township Clerks of Denver, Mound, Rose Dell, and Springwater; and the Luverne Library in Rock County and the Edgerton Library in Pipestone County.

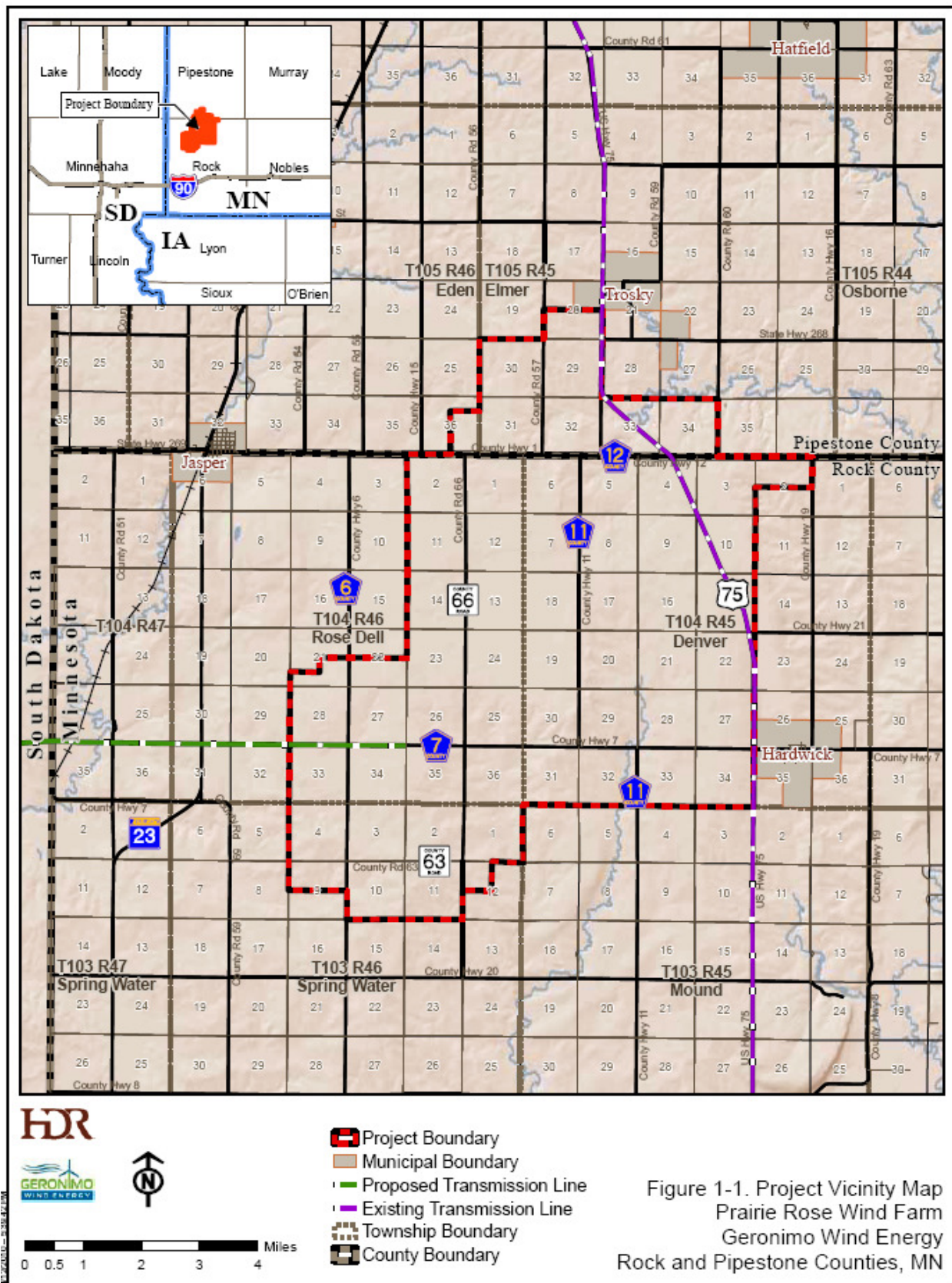
Questions about the Project and the Public Utilities Commission's permitting process may be directed to:

David Birkholz, State Permit Manager
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 296-2878
Fax: 651-297-7891
david.birkholz@state.mn.us

Jamie MacAlister, Public Advisor
Minnesota Office of Energy Security
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101
(651) 297-1335
Fax: 651-297-7891
jamie.macalister@state.mn.us

Persons interested in adding their names to the EFP Project Mailing List for this project should contact the project manager, public advisor, or register online at:
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=28286>

For other questions about the Prairie Rose Wind Farm LWECS Site Permit Application, contact Patrick Smith of Geronimo Wind Energy, LLC, (952) 988-9000 or Patrick@geronimowind.com.



This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651- 201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).